REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-5 have been amended, and new claims 6-7 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings were objected to for being in the Japanese language, not being labeled as "figure" and the failure to designate "branch path 9" referenced on page 6, lines 24-25. In view of the accompanying Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Substitution and Changes to the Drawings, the outstanding drawing objection is respectfully traversed. FIGS. 1-11 have been corrected to properly recite the English translation of the corresponding Japanese language recitations. In addition, it is noted that FIG. 8 has been corrected to include the reference number 9. The specification clearly indicates that reference number 9 corresponds to the signal line connecting Keyboard 1 and note decoder 8.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT

The abstract has been objected to for improper recitations of the present invention and utilizing improper language and format. It is respectfully submitted that the attached abstract clearly and concisely sets forth an embodiment of the present invention, with proper language and format.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been objected to for setting forth several informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned amendments to claims 1-5 now properly and clearly set forth embodiments of the present invention.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been objected to for setting forth several informalities. In view of the above amendments to claims 1-5, it is respectfully submitted that the informalities have been overcome. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the above amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 have been amended to more clearly and definitely set forth the present invention, without changing the breadth or scope of the claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of claims 1-5 be withdrawn.

In addition, it is noted in the outstanding Office Action claims 2-5 were not examined under the cited art because "claims 2-5 are so indefinite that it can not be distinguished to what the applicant is claiming." However, it is respectfully submitted that, although that claims as filed may not have been in complete proper §112 form, in cooperation with the specification the originally filed dependent claims 2-5 were sufficiently definite for a determination as to their breadth and scope. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the subsequent Office Action not be made final, as dependent claims 2-5 should have been, in the outstanding Office Action, either rejected under the cited art or indicated as including allowable subject matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Satoh et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,038,659, in view of Tanimoto, U.S. Patent No. 4,450,743. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of review and as an example, independent claim 1 sets forth a data processor using a note code table to correspond input data with scales of music staff notation. The note code table corresponds data input into a computer with scales of music staff notation. A note decoder decodes input data to correspond to the scale code data using the note code table, a note code storage device stores the decoded input data as music staff notation data, and an outputting means outputs the stored music staff notation data.

Satoh et al. is a musical score block copy forming apparatus. Satoh et al. has a musical keyboard (1) having a full-scale key group and a chromatic scale key group, and function keyboard (2) having function keys, and the like for note duration data and other musical score constituting data. Data input at the keyboards (1,2) and data necessary for a musical score forming arithmetic operation are stored in a storage unit (7). The input data and the data stored in the storage unit (7) are subjected to arithmetic processing by an arithmetic processing unit (3). The arithmetic processing unit (3) has a layout change function used when a musical score is formed, and can display a musical score on a display (4) on the basis of an arithmetic result. The musical score displayed on the display is output to an output unit (5) for forming a block copy of the musical score.

Thus, Satoh et al. sets forth a method of changing a layout of musical score according to an arithmetic calculation based on inputs from both a standard musical keyboard and a function keyboard. The function keyboard is used for entering note duration data and other musical score constituting data.

As noted in the Office Action, Satoh et al. at least fails to disclose the claimed note code table. In the present invention, characters and symbols on the keyboard are converted to each scale of the note staff using the claimed note code table.

The Office Action recites that Tanimoto et al., in combination with Satoh et al., discloses the claimed note code table. Rather, Tanimoto et al. shows an electronic musical instrument, and more particularly, it shows an electronic melody alarm clock. Tanimoto et al. does not show the claimed note code table and claimed note decoder using the claimed note code table.

Tanimoto et al. discloses a conversion table for converting an input key to a code to be entered into a register for determination of a pitch of an entered note. In addition, the converted input key is also related to the duration of the entered note.

Thus, the operation of Tanimoto et al. may appear to be similar to the second keyboard of Satoh et al., which is used for entering note duration data and other musical score constituting data, and thus may produce similar results. However, the code table of Tanimoto et al. does not "correspond data input into said computer with **scales of music staff notation**." Rather, the table of Tanimoto et al. merely assigns a code to an input key on a keyboard,

which is later used in modifying a note. The table of Tanimoto et al. is not used to convert input data into staff notation. Therefore, the combination of Tanimoto et al. and Satoh et al. similarly would not disclose the presently claimed note code table nor the claimed note code decoder.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Tanimoto et al. and Satoh et al. fails to disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn and independent claim 1 be allowed.

Similarly, independent claim 6 sets forth a similar note code table. In addition, independent claim 6 also sets forth that the input data is character data or symbol data. According to the present invention, character and symbol data and signal data characterized by that a code table, scale in the music staff is correlated with each of the exhibit characters and symbols has previously been made. The exhibited character and symbol data which are input from keyboard are converted into data in the form of scales on the music staff in accordance with the code table whereby the characters and symbols are converted into an arrangement of data in the form of scales. The converted data are then output from the computer.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 6 and 7 are also in proper allowable condition.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 11/13/00 By: _____

Stephen T. Boughner
Registration No. 45,317

700 Eleventh Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on Nov 13, 2000

STAAS & HALSEY

By: _____

Date: Nov 13 2000

ABSTRACT

A data processor using a computer and a staff notation, the data processor having at least one note code table corresponding input data with scales and music staff notation. The data processor includes a note decoder to decode input data into corresponding scale code data using the note code table, a note code storage device to store output data from the note decoder in order, and an output unit to output decoded music staff notation data from the note storage device. Different note code tables may be selectively set.